

REMARKS

Claims 1-62 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 15-18, 27-32 and 36-40 are rejected. Claims 1-43 are canceled. Claims 44-62 are allowed. New claims 63-106 are added. Claims 44-106 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. In the Drawings

It is asserted in the Office Action that the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include all of the reference sign(s) mentioned in the description, among other objections as well. Applicant has amended Figures 11, 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 22 to overcome the objections. Approval is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 1-4, 15-17, 27, 37 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U. S. Patent Application No. 5,456,271 issued to Legette ("Legette"). Applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 15-17, 27, 37 and 40. Therefore, the aforementioned 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection is moot.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 5, 6, 8-10, 18, 28-31, 36 and 38 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Legette in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,488,963 issued to Fishman ("Fishman"). Applicant has canceled claims 5, 6, 8-10, 18, 28-31, 36 and 38. Therefore, the aforementioned 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is moot.

B. It is asserted in the Office Action that claim 11 is rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Legette in view of Fishman, and

further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,637,441 issued to Kennedy et al. ("Kennedy"). Applicant has canceled claim 11. Therefore, the aforementioned 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is moot.

- C. It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 32 and 39 are rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Legette in view of Kennedy. Applicant has canceled claims 32 and 39. Therefore, the aforementioned 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 44-62 are allowed and that claims 7, 12, 13, 14, 19-26, 33-35 and 41-43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim

Applicant has added new claim 63, which correspond to claim 7 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim 68, which correspond to claim 12 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim 71, which correspond to claim 13 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim 74, which correspond to claim 19 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim 79, which correspond to claim 24 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim 81, which correspond to claim 25 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim 84, which correspond to claim 33 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim 92, which correspond to claim 34 re-written in

independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicant has added new claim 94, which correspond to claim 41 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicant has added new claim 98, which correspond to claim 42 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicant has added new claim 102, which correspond to claim 43 re-written in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 44-106, as they now stand, are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 44-106 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: September 19, 2005

By: _____

Steven Laut, Reg. No. 47,736

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 19, 2005.


Jean Sroboda